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[IT/IT]; Via Pontina KM. 30.600, I-00040 Pomezia (IT).
COLLOCA, Stefano [IT/IT]; Via Pontina KM. 30.600,
I-00040 Pomezia (IT).

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(74) Common Representative: **MERCK & CO., INC.**; 126
East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US).

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(71) Applicants (*for all designated States except US*): **MERCK
& CO., INC.** [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway,
NJ 07065-0907 (US). **ISTITUTO DI RICERCHE DI
BIOLOGIA MOLECOLARE P. ANGELETTI, S.P.A.**
[IT/IT]; VIA PONTINA KM. 30.600, I-00040 POMEZIA
(IT).

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(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **EMINI, Emilio**,
A. [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ
07065-0907 (US). **KASLOW, David, C.** [US/US]; 126
East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US).
BETT, Andrew, J. [CA/US]; 126 East Lincoln Ave-
nue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US). **SHIVER, John**,
W. [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ
07065-0907 (US). **NICOSIA, Alfredo** [IT/IT]; Via Pon-
tina KM. 30.600, I-00040 Pomezia (IT). **LAHM, Armin**
[DE/IT]; Via Pontina KM. 30.600, I-00040 Pomezia
(IT). **LUZZAGO, Alessandra** [IT/IT]; Via Pontina KM.
30.600, I-00040 Pomezia (IT). **CORTESE, Riccardo**

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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: HEPATITIS C VIRUS VACCINE

(57) Abstract: The present invention features Ad6 vectors and a nucleic acid encoding a Met-NS3-NS4A-NS4B-NS5A-NS5B polypeptide containing an inactive NS5B RNA-dependent RNA polymerase region. The nucleic acid is particularly useful as a component of an adenovector or DNA plasmid vaccine providing a broad range of antigens for generating an HCV specific cell mediated immune (CMI) response against HCV.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/32512

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C12N 15/40, 15/51, 15/85, 15/86, 15/861; A61K 48/00
US CL : 514/44; 424/93.2; 435/320.1, 455, 456

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 514/44; 424/93.2; 435/320.1, 455, 456

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,127,116 A (RICH et al.) 03 October 2000 (03.10.2000), column 45, lines 18-57.	1, 2
A	WO 01/30812 A2 (CHIRON CORPORATION) 03 May 2001 (03.05.2001).	1-54
A	WO 97/47358 A1 (MERCK & CO., INC.) 18 December 1997 (18.12.1997).	1-54

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"B" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T"

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

09 July 2003 (09.07.2003)

Date of mailing of the international search report

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Authorized officer

Scott D. Priebe

Telephone No. (703) 308-0196

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/32512

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-54

Remark on Protest ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US02/32512

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be searched, the appropriate additional search fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-54, drawn to a nucleic acid encoding a HCV polypeptide.

Group II, claim(s) 55-59, drawn to a chimeric adenovirus vector comprising sequence derived from human adenovirus serotypes 5 and 6.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

The technical feature of invention I is a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide derived from an HCV polypeptide, whereas the technical feature of invention II is a chimeric adenoviral vector comprising a heterologous sequence. These two features are not related. Invention I does not require vector of invention II, nor does is the vector of invention II required to contain the polynucleotides of invention I.

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

MEDLINE, EMBASE, CAPLUS, BIOSIS, SCISEARCH, USPT, PGPB, DERWENT, GENBANK, GENESEQ
search terms: HCV, hepatitis C virus, vaccine, NS5B, NS5B near inactiv? or non-functional, SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2